

DESPITE their heroic feats against Newport County and Peterborough United in the F.A. Cup last season, Wycombe Wanderers will have to battle their way through the qualifying rounds of this year's competition. In the first qualifying round they are away to the winners of the Marlow v. Aylesbury United preliminary tie.

Wanderers secretary Bert Crump explained why Wycombe were not exempt from the early rounds. "If a club wants to apply for exemption from the qualifying rounds, it must enclose a special letter with the fee by early May. We did not realise that fact and we must now play in the early rounds."

Also in the Wycombe group are Oxford City who meet Southern Leaguers Witney Town, Chesham United who are home to Vauxhall Motors and Wolverton, who take on Milton Keynes City. If Wycombe beat either Aylesbury or Marlow on September 14 they will be at home to the winners of the Wolverton or Milton Keynes tie.

One competition the Blues have been exempted from is the F.A. Challenge Trophy, which the club are entering for the first time this season. The new clubs in the competition, including all Rothmans Isthmian League clubs, have all been judged on past achievements and records and as a result, ten have been exempted until the third qualifying round.

As well as Wycombe, Hendon, Leatherhead, Bishop's Stortford, Dulwich Hamlet, Ilford, Slough, Sutton, Walton and Hersham and Woking are the clubs concerned. The third qualifying stage is on November 30.

---